We Claim:

1. In a remote control device having a network interface with a network,

5 said network having additional devices interfaced with the network,

a method, comprising the steps of:

providing a protocol to enable said remote control device to dynamically

locate, and identify a network attached device, and

with the protocol, retrieving dynamically the command codes of said network

10 attached device, and

with the protocol, controlling the operations of said network attached device

by means of said dynamically retrieved command codes.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

15 with the protocol, sending communications over an Internet Protocol (IP)

based network.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

with the protocol, dynamically locating and identifying multiple network

20 attached devices with the remote control device

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

with the protocol, controlling the operations of multiple network attached

devices with the remote control device

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5. The method of claim 1 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

with the protocol, said remote control requesting and receiving a list of

command codes from a network attached device.

30 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

with the protocol, sending received command codes to said network attached

device from the remote control device.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

with the protocol, displaying on the display surface of said remote control a list of the network attached devices available to a user.

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8. The method of claim 1 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

with the protocol, selecting a device to control from among those listed on the display surface of the remote control device by a user of the remote control device.

10   9. The method of claim 1 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

with the protocol, said network attached device receiving a request for its command codes from said remote control device, and

with the protocol, said network attached device providing said command codes to the remote control device.

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10. The method of claim 1 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

with the protocol, said network attached device providing its command codes and an associated text string for each code to the remote control device in response to a request from the remote control device.

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11. The method of claim 1 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

with the protocol, said network attached device providing its command codes and an associated graphical image for each command code to the remote control device in response to a request from the remote control device.

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12. The method of claim 1 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

with the protocol, said network attached device providing its command codes and an associated graphical image and text string for each command code, to the remote control device, in response to a request from the remote control device.

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13. The method of claim 1 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

with the protocol, said network attached device receiving and executing one of its command codes from said remote control device.

14. In a remote control device having a network interface with a network, said network having additional devices interfaced with the network, said network being located within a motor vehicle, a method, comprising the steps of:

5   providing a protocol to enable a network attached device to be dynamically located, and identified by the electronic remote control device, and

      with the protocol, said remote control device controlling the operations of said network attached device by means of command codes dynamically retrieved from the network attached device.

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15. The method of claim 14 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

      with the protocol, sending communications over an Internet Protocol (IP) based network.

15   16. The method of claim 14 wherein

      said remote control device contains a touch pad screen.

17. A medium for use with a remote control device with a network interface with a network, said medium holding computer-executable instructions for performing a

20   method comprising:

      providing additional network attached devices, and

      providing a protocol to enable a network attached device to be dynamically located, and identified by the electronic remote control device, and

      with the protocol, said remote control device controlling the operations of said

25   network attached device by means of command codes dynamically retrieved from the network attached device.

18. The medium of claim 17 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

      with the protocol, sending communications over an Internet Protocol (IP)

30   based network.

19. The medium of claim 17 wherein

      said network is located in a motor vehicle.

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20. The medium of claim 17 wherein

said remote control device includes a touch pad display screen.

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